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## For Immediate Release

Governor Jay Inslee put in place an emergency proclamation today, prohibiting events and religious gatherings with more than 250 people in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties in response to rising cases of COVID-19 and to help reduce the spread of the virus. At this point in time, the Governor has not issued any emergency measures for Bremerton or Kitsap County residents.

Currently, there are a small number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Kitsap County, and testing is on-going for the illness.

Mayor Wheeler is in regular communication with Kitsap Public Health, Washington State Department of Health, Kitsap County Dept. of Emergency Management to share information and stay up-to-date on developments in our area.

"With the recent actions by Gov. Inslee to reduce spread of the virus in adjoining counties, we are carefully monitoring the situation here," said Mayor Greg Wheeler. "Bremerton residents should continue to be vigilant about washing their hands, staying home when sick and people in high risk groups should consider avoiding public gatherings. We will be watching updates closely to protect the health and safety of our community."

Public health officials are not recommending events and gatherings be canceled in Bremerton. However, this is an actively changing situation and health authorities may advise additional prevention measures, such as alternative work and school arrangements, or cancellation of events.

"Our Bremerton residents have been actively responding and should continue to follow Kitsap Public Health guidelines to practice healthy habits and plan for possible impacts of COVID-19," said Mayor Wheeler.

## These actions include:

- Wash hands often, stay home when sick, and disinfect surfaces
- People over 60 years old, those with underlying health conditions, and pregnant women should consider avoiding large gatherings to reduce risk of getting sick
- Bremerton residents should have a plan in case they or their children need to stay home due to changes in schedules or if they are sick

For more information about COVID-19 in Bremerton and Kitsap County visit: <u>kitsappublichealth.org</u>.